

Northfield Open Space Committee  
Minutes, Jun 16, 2015  
Town Hall – Planning Board Room

*Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.*

**Present:** Mike Barry, Julia Blyth, Joanne McGee, Leslie Powers, Sue Ross, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

**Absent:** Robert Hall, Kate Rossiter, Jenny Tufts

The meeting opened at 7:35.

1. **Adoption of agenda:** Two items were added to the agenda – invoice signing and water problems on Spaulding land.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of May 9, 2015, were approved with minor corrections. Julia/Leslie. The minutes of Jan. 20, 2015, Dec. 22, 2014, and Mar. 17, 2015, were approved. Leslie/Sue. Jerry passed around archival copies for signatures.
3. **Trail booklets:** Lotus Graphics printed 100 more trail booklets for \$130. *Jerry will get an additional 100 printed. He will also get 200 individual trail maps printed for \$600.* Committee members signed an invoice for \$730.00.
4. **Member comments:**

Joanne called Congressman McGovern's office about the Mt. Crag letter. Action will be slow. She announced an art show in Keene which celebrates conservation properties.

Mike and Jenny did the annual stewardship monitoring for the Town Forest.

Julia talked to the Senior Center folks about the Open Space Committee duties, the Ames property, brought copies of the trail booklets, and displayed the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Jerry sent around an email announcing the 2015 Massachusetts Trails conference scheduled for Nov. 14. He plans to visit the 32,000 horsepower compressor station in Wellsboro PA as part of a trip westward.
5. **TPL (Trust for Public Land) option on NMH (Northfield Mount Hermon) land:** In an email to Jerry, JT Horn from TPL discussed several items: The laundry/landfill parcel is not part of the plan now. TPL has a 60 day contract extension from NMH. If the state cannot hold the grant funding, TPL will do a Forest Legacy grant which, unfortunately, takes several years. TPL is getting bids for the survey work. TPL is working on the specifics of the East Northfield Water Co. sale to Valley Water Systems and trying to meet with various parties including DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) and DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation).

6. **Community Park update:** A subcommittee is finishing up the RFP (request for proposals) that will be publicized to landowners. It is backing up its request with resources such as the Open Space and Recreation Plan, bikeway plan, Schell Bridge Economic Impact statement, etc.
7. **TGP (Tennessee Gas Pipeline) update:** TGP has an option on 242 acres of land along Gulf Road. The committee discussed at length the impact of the pipeline and the compressor station on Northfield's water supplies in the event of leakage or explosion. Since it is uphill from aquifers and major streams, there is concern that it presents a threat to the water supply of the town. Jerry requests that committee members submit ideas to him for a letter to the Selectboard addressing these concerns. *He will bring a draft letter to the next meeting.*
8. **Ames Conservation Restriction:** Although there is still a shortage of \$5,000, Mount Grace will close on the project July 1, but will continue with fundraising. *Jerry will build the kiosk at the Alderbrook Nature Trail.*
9. **Spaulding land:** Mo Spaulding called Joanne with concerns about the flooding on her property which is downhill from Louisiana Mt. She is planning to place a conservation restriction on her property. Mo feels that the increased water is a result of fewer people using the water from the reservoir. After consulting USGS maps, the committee felt that any excess water would drain down Louisiana Brook. *Mike and Leslie will bring the matter up at the Conservation Committee meeting tomorrow although the Con Com only has jurisdiction over wetlands and intermittent streams.*
10. **Adjournment and next meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee  
Secretary